



PLAZA NEWS



Miyazaki International Foundation

Questions, comments, postings, or for information in Plaza News: Miyazaki International Foundation, B1 Carino Miyazaki, Tachibanadori Higashi 4-8-1, Miyazaki City 880-0805 Tel: 0985-32-8457 Fax: 0985-32-8512 Email: miyaiinfo@mif.or.jp Homepage: <https://www.mif.or.jp/>
Open: Tuesdays to Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Closed: Sundays, Mondays, National Holidays and December 29 to January 3

©Plaza Holiday Closing

The International Plaza will be closed for the public holiday on March 20th (Sat).

Japanese Practice Sessions

***FREE, No Registration Required**

◇Dates & Time: 10:30 am - 11:30 am

[Wed] 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24

[Fri] 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26

◇Location: CARINO Miyazaki B1F

◇Inquiries: Miyazaki International Foundation



Miyazaki International Plaza Counter Volunteer Recruitment

We are currently looking for volunteers from within Miyazaki Prefecture, 18 years of age or older, to work at the front counter of the Miyazaki International Plaza and assist Plaza staff. To apply, interested parties should submit a completed application form by 3/6 (Sat).

In the case of multiple applicants, potential volunteers will undergo a screening process.

*Nationality will not play a role in choosing applicants.

However, volunteers expected to speak some basic Japanese.

◇Volunteer Period:

4/7(Wed) to 9/30 (Thu) *Excluding Holidays

◇Volunteer Time:

One day a week from Tue to Sat from;

A. 10:15 am - 12:45 pm B. 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Volunteers will work on the same day and during the same time period from week to week.

◇Tasks: Assisting Plaza visitors, assist in lending out and checking in library materials sending out documents, organizing library materials, arranging and forwarding used stamps, etc.

◇Others: Transportation expenses not covered; no monetary rewards (*however, volunteer's insurance will be covered by the International Foundation and parking vouchers will be issued to volunteers making use of the CARINO Miyazaki Parking Lot)

◇Dead Line: 3/6(Sat)



MIF Website **NEW**

We have redesigned the Chinese and Korean versions of our website. Check it out to learn more about the MIF! We provide the latest news about our services, Japanese classes, cultural exchange and much more. You can also share information on international exchange and cooperation in the message forum. If you are studying English, Chinese, or Korean, make sure to check out the foreign language versions of our website.

Depending on the status of the COVID-19 situation at the time, the event may have to be altered or cancelled. Please visit our website and Facebook for the latest information.

15th Annual "Miyazaki-From the Outside Looking In" Art Festival Traveling Exhibit

The art exhibition "From the Outside Looking In," which was held on the 1st basement floor of the CARINO building in Miyazaki City from November 18th to December 5th 2020, will be displayed in Takanabe. Be sure to check it out!

◇Date & Time: Mar. 6th (Sat), Mar. 21st (Sun)
10:00 am - 5:00 pm

◇Location: Takanabe Museum Of Art

◇Inquiries: Takanabe Town Board of Education *Shakai Kyōiku ka*
Tel: 0983-23-3326



A Report from Taiwan



One year has passed since the outbreak of COVID-19. During this time, what countermeasures have been taken outside of Japan, and how have people been spending their days? We asked Ms. Kuo, a resident of Taipei, to report from her country. ※Ms. Kuo is a friend of Staff U. She was born in Pingtung County in Southern Taiwan and is currently working in Taipei.

At the beginning of last year, when the COVID-19 pandemic started, the alcohol sanitizer and masks at pharmacies and drugstores quickly disappeared. However, thanks to the efforts of the Government and the private sector, the supply of alcohol sanitizer was soon became restored, and masks could be purchased through a system using health insurance cards. The Government has taken many measures against COVID-19, such as restricting access to airports, stipulating social distancing, and announcing daily reports of confirmed cases and the movements of infected people. One of the things I have found most useful is the "疫管家" LINE account. In addition to providing information on how to help prevent the spread of the disease, this account announces the number of confirmed cases and the status of the spread of infection that day, which are announced at a press conference held by the Command Center (also known as the Central Epidemic and Epidemic Information Center) every afternoon, so that the public can be clearly informed and kept up to date. One of the most difficult things for me to get used to at first was having to wear a mask on public transportation such as the MRT (the train that runs through Taipei) and buses because the mask would fog up my glasses. Gradually, however, I got used to wearing a mask everywhere I went.

From December 1, 2020, it became a requirement to wear masks in eight locations (medical and care-related facilities, public transportation, living and shopping facilities, education and learning facilities, venues, leisure and entertainment facilities, and religious and festival-related facilities). Failure to comply results in a fine of not less than NT\$3,000 (about ¥10,900) and not more than NT\$15,000 (about ¥54,700). While many people comply with the preventative regulations put in place, there are others who do not cooperate, such as those who do not listen when told to wear masks on the MRT, or those who do not follow the quarantine regulations upon returning to the country and walk around everywhere in public. These unruly examples are not only acts of personal selfishness, but also put the people themselves and others in danger. The fight against COVID-19 requires the efforts on the part of each and every one of us. I hope that the days of having to wear a mask every day will soon be over and the world will return to normal.

Daily Life Consultations for Foreign Residents in NOBEOKA

Staff will be available for consultations concerning everyday difficulties. You can consult with us in your native language. (We may use machine translation and phone interpreting services for consultations.) Consultations are strictly confidential.

※Consultation may be subject to cancellation due to COVID-19.

◆**Date & Time:** Mar.17th (Wed) 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

◆**Venue:** Okatomi Community Center (Cocoreta Nobeoka 2F)

◆**How to Apply:** Please make an appointment by e-mail or FAX by March 13th (Sat) and let us know your name, phone number, a brief description of your matter and your language.

◆**Inquiries & Application:**

Miyazaki Support Center for Foreign Residents

TEL:0985-41-5901 FAX:0985-41-5902

E-mail:support@mif.or.jp



We are recruiting patrons!

Annual membership fee

Individual:2,000yen Group:10,000yen



If you become our patron...

- You will receive "International Plaza News," our monthly newsletter
- You will receive "South Wind," our semiannual magazine
- You will be given priority registration for our lectures and workshops
- You will be given discounts for our lectures and workshops
- (Only available for Groups) Website will be linked to our homepage

Books in Miyazaki International Foundation

①Kim Ji-young, Born 1982

Kim Ji-young, born in 1982, is the main character in this book. Throughout her life, from her childhood through to marriage and childbirth, the book portrays the difficulties of being a woman while interweaving contemporary history and social issues related to gender consciousness in Korea. The book became a bestseller in Korea and was even made into a movie. Since this book became a hot topic, there have been changes in Korean society. Women started to speak out on a lot of issues, protesting against discriminatory and violent words against women on the Internet, and demanding that sexual harassment, such as voyeurism, be stopped. You could say that books move people, people move people, and this changes society. The book has been translated into sixteen languages, including English and Japanese, and has been read in many countries around the world. The Plaza has a Japanese version, but you can read it in other languages as well, so make sure to pick up a copy!



②TRANSIT No.50 A Journey Through the Beautiful Blue of Japan

TRANSIT is a travel magazine that covers the beautiful landscapes, cultures, lifestyles, and people of the world and Japan from a neutral perspective. This fiftieth issue focuses on the theme of blue, Japan's national color, and records the travels of the magazine's contributors throughout Japan; from Hokkaido in the North to Okinawa in the South. The book is filled with beautiful photographs and articles about Japanese culture, natural scenery, food, clothing, and shelter, all of which have something to do with the color blue. The wide range of shades of blue, the names of those shades, and the fact that Japanese people have so many words to describe them are incredibly fascinating. We may not be able to travel much right now due to COVID-19, but reading this magazine is sure to make you feel like you've traveled, and make you feel better.



◀March Event▶



Event	Date & Time	Venue	Contact
Spring Floral Festival	3/20(Sat) - 5/30 (Sun) 9:00 am - 5:00 pm 5/11, 5/18,5/25(Tue) will be closed	Florante Miyazaki 310yen(adults) 150yen(children) Free (pre-school child)	Florante Miyazaki 0985-23-1510
50 th Anniversary Celebration for the Traditional Folk Houses	3/6(Sat) 10:00 am - 3:00 pm	Miyazaki Prefectural Museum of Nature and History Traditional Folk Houses Miyazaki City	Miyazaki Prefectural Museum of Nature and History 0985-24-2071

An Englishman in Miyazaki

"They Don't Write 'Em Like That Anymore..."



Miyazaki Prefecture CIR
Marsh Graham

*Bring me my bow of burning gold,
Bring me my arrows of desire,
Bring me my spear: O clouds unfold,
Bring me my chariot of fire!*

Hi everyone! Hope you're all keeping well. For a bit of a change this month, I thought it might be interesting to look at something old and English (presumably out of some kind of resonance...) - have you ever heard William Blake's poem "And Did Those Feet in Ancient Time" from the start of the 19th century? Along with Land of Hope and Glory, it's often sung as the national anthem for England at international sporting events. (Unlike Ireland and Wales, England doesn't actually have an official anthem, so they also often use the UK's national anthem, God Save the Queen). People who don't like the monarchy in the UK (as well as King George V, interestingly) also often prefer it because, rather than venerating the royal family, it sings about England's natural beauty and working hard to build a paradise on Earth. It's often said that the original poem was also protesting the destruction of nature and human relationships in the name of progress during the industrial revolution. I know it's not exactly BTS or anything, but there's some interesting national, cultural and human history to be found there if you fancy checking it out. What about your own countries? If you have a cool unofficial anthem or come from a country without an official one, let me know! I'd love to hear the story.

